

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 XMB-02 OPIC-03 L-03

IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 ARA-06 /073 W

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P R 061613Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0508

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05288

E.O. 1L652: GDS

TAGS: ELTN, AO

SUBJECT: STATUS OF BENGUELA RAILWAY

REFERENCE: LONDON 5180

1. SIR PHILLIP DE ZULUETA, DIRECTOR OF TANGANYIKA CONCESSIONS. CALLED EMBASSY OFFICER APRIL 6 TO REVISE HIS EARLIER ESTIMATE ON THE CONDITION OF THE BENGUELA RAILROAD REPORTED IN REFTEL. SIR PHILLIP NOW HAS INFORMATION CONFIRMING THAT THE BRIDGE OVER THE CUANZA RIVER IS SEVERELY DAMAGED AND UNUSABLE. MOREOVER, THE RIVER IS IN FLOOD AND RAILWAY WORKERS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO BEGIN REPAIRS. THE COMPANY NOW ESTIMATES THAT THE BRIDGE COULD NOT BE REOPENED TO REGULAR TRAFFIC UNTIL JULY.

2. SIR PHILLIP ALSO REPORTED THAT ANQOLANS HAVE NOW AFFIRMATIVELY RESPONDED TO TANGANYIKA CONCESSIONS MESSAGE (REFTEL) AND THAT TWO COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES

MUCH OF THE LINE AS POSSIBLE, BUT SECURITY RESTRICTIONS PREVENT THEM FROM TRAVELING EAST OF LUSO WHERE. SIR
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PHILLIP SAID, "THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF ATTACKS ON

TRAINS."

3. SIR PHILLIP ALSO MENTIONED THAT, FOR WHAT IT IS
WORTH. HE HAS HEARD REPORTS FROM EMPLOYEES IN LUANDA
THAT THERE HAS BEEN A "FURTHER INFLUX OF CUBANS INTO
ANGOLA." HE HAS NO DETAILS.

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BRIDGES (STRUCTURES), RAILROADS
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Draft Date: 06 APR 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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